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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Obtaining an accurate count of the population is so vital to a representative democracy that the framers of the United States Constitution addressed the issue of the census and apportionment in the opening paragraphs of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Constitution requires that federal census data be the basis for state redistricting; and

WHEREAS, The Census Bureau currently has a policy of counting incarcerated people at the address of the correctional institution, even though for other legal purposes their home address remains their legal residence; and

WHEREAS, This census data results in distortions of the one-person, one-vote principle in drawing electoral districts in Illinois, diluting the representation of the majority of districts that do not contain prisons; and

WHEREAS, The simplest solution to the conflict between federal constitutional requirements of "one person, one vote" and the Illinois constitutional requirements of using the federal census is for the Census Bureau to publish redistricting data based on the location of an incarcerated

1 person's residence, not prison location; and

2 WHEREAS, The Census Bureau has already recognized the
3 demand from states and counties for data that better reflects
4 their actual populations and has agreed to release data on
5 prison populations to states in time for redistricting,
6 enabling some states to individually adjust the population data
7 used for redistricting; and

8 WHEREAS, Public Law 94-171 requires the Census Bureau to
9 work with states to provide geographically relevant data, and
10 the Census Bureau has been responsive to the data needs of the
11 states for the past three decades; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we urge the Census Bureau, in the next census and thereafter,
15 to provide states with redistricting data that counts
16 incarcerated persons at their residential address, rather than
17 the address of the correctional institution where they are
18 temporarily located; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 delivered to the U.S. Census Bureau.